

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 08053 302358Z

16

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OMB-01 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00

ACDA-10 DRC-01 SCS-01 SCA-01 /071 W

----- 130447

R 300910Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1333

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8053

LIMDIS/NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS KN

SUBJ: SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE

REF: SEOUL 7999

1. IN NOV 30 DISCUSSION WITH POL COUNSELOR KNRC
VICE PRESIDENT YI BUM SOK INDICATED THAT NEGATIVE NORTH
KOREAN RESPONSE TO SOUTH PROPOSAL FOR DECEMBER RED CROSS
MEETING HAD BEEN EXPECTED.

2. YI SAID THAT IT IS CLEAR NORTH KOREANS ARE WAITING
UNTIL THEY SEE WHETHER ROKG GETS ITS DOMESTIC SITUATION
UNDER CONTROL BEFORE PROCEEDING TO RESUMPTION OF PLENARY
RED CROSS SESSIONS. IN YI'S VIEW NORTH KOREANS VIEW
ROKG'S DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AS SERIOUS. (YI BELIEVES THAT
ASSESSMENT IS CORRECT). CONSEQUENTLY NORTH KOREANS
ARE NOT PREPARED TO MAKE ANY MAJOR GESTURE RE DIALOGUE
WHICH MIGHT EASE THE INTERNAL PRESSURES ON THE ROKG.

3. YI INDICATED HOWEVER, THAT NORTH KOREAN REPS
AT NOV 28 LIAISON OFFICERS MEETING WERE CAREFUL NOT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 08053 302358Z

TO COMPLETELY CLOSE THE DOOR TO FURTHER CONTACTS.

FURTHER,NORTH KOREANS ALSO DID NOT EXPLICITLYLY REJECT AN EVENTUAL MEETING IN SEOUL. WHEN SOUTH KOREAN LIAISON OFFICER PRESSED THEM FOR YES OR NO ANSWER ON PROPOSAL FOR DECEMBER PLENARY SESSION IN SEOUL NORTH KOREANS RECITED THEIR UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS. WHEN SOUTH KOREAN LIAISON OFFICER INDICATED THAT HE COULD ONLY INTERPRET THEIR RESPONSES AS REJECTION OF SOUTH'S PROPOSAL, NORTH KOREAN REPLY WAS THAAT HE COULD MAKE WHATEVER INTERPRETATION HE WISHED OF NORTH'S POSITION.

4. YI SAID THAT KNRC LIAISON OFFICER PROPOSED FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF QUESTION OF RESUMPTION OF RED CROSS NEGOTIATIONS FOR NOV 30. NORTH KOREAN REP SIMPLY REPLIED THAT THEY SHOULD MAKE FURTHER CONTACT ON THIS SUBJECT LATER.

5. YI SAID THAT AS FOLLOW-UP ROK LIAISON OFFICER IS GOING TO PROPOSE VIA HOTLINE THAT ANOTHER PRELIMINARY MEETING TAKE PLACE AT PANMUNJOM IN NEAR FUTURE. IF ACCEPTABLE THIS MIGHT LEAD TO LATER ROK PROPOSAL THAT YI MEET ALONE WITH HIS COUNTERPART AT PANMUNJOM. SAID THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD HAVE ADDED ADVANTAGE OF BREAKING CURRENT

PATTERN OF LARGE SCALE FORMAL SESSIONS ALTERNATING BETWEEN THE TWO CAPITALS.

6. YI SAID THAT HE IS NOT DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING RE COORDINATING COMMITTEE BUT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT DEPUTY CHAIRMAN CHANG KI-YONG IS CHARGED AT THE DEC 5 PANMUNJOM MEETING WITH SOUNDING OUT NORTH KOREAN ATTITUDES ON REORGANIZATION AND RESUMPTION OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE. YI SAID THAT ROKG EXPECTS NORTH KOREAN REP TO TAKE SIMILAR LINE WITH CHANG TO THAT FOLLOWED IN NOV 28 RED CROSS LIAISON OFFICERS MEETING. WHILE AVOIDING EXPLICIT REJECTION OF RESUMPTION OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES YI SAID IT IS EXPECTED THAT NORTHERN SIDE WILL INTRODUCE UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS, AT SAME TIME NOT CLOSING THE DOOR TO WORKING LEVEL CONTACTS.

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PAGE 03 SEOUL 08053 302358Z

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